

March 25, 2010

DCPS Educators:

Once again, your effective work in the classroom has made headlines.

This week, the results of the NAEP reading tests were released. The District was one of only three jurisdictions, with Rhode Island and Kentucky, where 4th grade scores rose from 2007 to 2009. More DC students performed at or above "basic" levels than at any time since the NAEP was first administered in either grade – 44 percent in 4th grade and 50 percent in 8th grade.

As you well know, reading is the foundation of learning. The academic progress of District students is a clear reflection of their hard work, their desire and ability to grow, and your abilities as educators to lead them to this growth.

Here are some more details from the "Nation's Report Card" results:

4th Grade Performance Highlights:

- The average District score increased 5 points from 2007 to 2009. Comparatively, the national average did not increase. No state had a greater increase from 2007 to 2009 than DC.
- The percentage of students scoring Basic or above was 39 percent in 2007 and 44 percent in 2009.
- The percentage of students scoring Proficient or Advanced increased markedly, from 14 percent in 2007 to 17 percent in 2009.

8th Grade Performance Highlights:

- Since 2007, the average student's score increased 1 point, consistent with gains nationwide.
- The percentage of students scoring Basic or above increased from 48 percent in 2007 to 50 percent in 2009.
- The percentage of students scoring at Proficient or Advanced was 12 percent in 2007 and 13 percent in 2009.

Our students still have a long way to go before they reach their potential. But this steady and consistent progress shows that they can get there. I continue to stand in awe of our fourth-graders, who have again outpaced the nation in growth—and you, their teachers, who have led the students to this accomplishment. Enjoy your well-earned spring break.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rhee
Chancellor